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Date: December 20, 2005

By: Sherry Duncan Bitler
Sherry Duncan Bitler

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of FANKHAUSER et al.

Confirmation No.: 8088

Serial No. 09/770,166

Examiner: A. KHATRI

Filed: 01/26/2001

Art Unit: 2193

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOCATING AND EXCHANGING CLINICAL
INFORMATION

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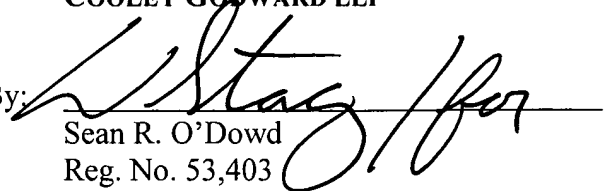
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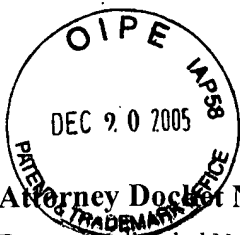
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37 C.F.R. § 1.192 APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Applicant hereby appeals from the Final Rejection of April 25, 2005. The Notice of Appeal was filed on October 20, 2005.

REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST

The real parties in interest in this appeal are Quovadx, Inc, an exclusive licensee with rights to control prosecution in the above-identified application, and California Healthcare Foundation, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, which is the assignee.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are presently no related appeals or interferences.

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 11, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23, 27, 33, 37 and 41 are independent. The appendix includes a true copy of all pending claims. No claims have been allowed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments have been entered.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The technology of the present application relates to systems for locating medical information records, and in particular to systems for locating distributed medical information. Although several embodiments of the present invention are disclosed in the lengthy specification, the following summary provides a general overview of an exemplary embodiment of the invention. Note that it is not Applicants' intention to limit the scope of the invention to what is described in this summary. This material is purely illustrative.

In one embodiment, an exchange server (also referred to as a metadata server) acts to provide information about how exchange information should take place: where the information is located (e.g., where health care records are located), what access is permitted and how the information is identified. (See Specification, page 17, lines 15-19). In addition, the exchange server utilizes metadata received from clinical organizations to build a database which enables clinical information to be located and accessed even though the records are dispersed across diverse locations (See specification, page 10, lines 2-6, and page 31, lines 11-15). The metadata from the clinical systems includes organizational demographic information, patient demographic data, and clinical record locator data. (See Specification, page 10, lines 18-20). This information is used to correlate the patient data that describes where the patient has been seen and where the

patient records may exist. (See Specification, page 11, lines 4-6). In one embodiment, the exchange server accesses a database to search for matches to the patient demographic data and either accesses a universal person object for the patient (if one exists) or creates a universal person object. (See Specification, page 25, line 18 to page 26, line 2). Then the metadata is stored in the database in connection with the universal person object. (See Specification, page 26, lines 3-6).

In order for a health care provider to access distributed clinical information, the provider first queries the metadata server, and the server searches the database for universal person objects using a correlation system that correlates the patients across health care facilities where they have been registered. (See Specification, page 11, lines 19-22). The server then retrieves and provides locator records, which include a description of the type of record, the parameters needed to access it and information on how to access the record (See Specification, page 15, lines 9-13 and page 32, lines 11-15). The information (e.g., health care record) may then be retrieved from the foreign system and returned to the provider. (See Specification, page 15, lines 9-18). In variations of this embodiment, locator data is filtered according to policies to determine, for example, whether the provider has rights to the data (See Specification, page 15, lines 3-8). One embodiment that allows a health care provider to make requests of an exchange server is described at page 27, line 16 to page 29 line 2.

Means-Plus-Function Claims

The pending claims include two claims that include means-plus-function limitations: claim 21 and claim 22. The following tables identify the structures described in the specification that correspond to each claimed function. Note that it is not applicants' intention to provide an exhaustive list of every piece of structure described in the specification that carries out some

portion of the recited function, nor is it applicants' intent to limit the scope of the invention to what is described in these tables. This material is purely illustrative.

Title: Means Plus Function Language – Claim 21

Function	Corresponding Structure
means for creating universal person objects	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, correlation system 201; FIG. 5, server 503, correlation system 506; FIG. 11, metadata server 1100; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations	FIG. 1, External interfaces; certified applications 104; ; FIG. 2, system administration and monitoring module 205, interoperability/communication infrastructure 209, administration interface 214; FIG. 5, server 503, PIDS 505; FIG. 11, servlet 1108; FIG. 30 computer system, I/O 3006.
means for searching the database for universal person objects	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; certified applications; FIG. 2, PIDS 202; FIG. 5 correlation system 506; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data in accordance with the metadata	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, PIDS 202, FIG. 3, PIDS exchange server 302; FIG. 5, server 503, PIDS 505, correlation system 506; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, correlation system 201, database 208; FIG. 5, correlation system 506, database 507; FIG. 12, application server 1201, database 1202, data server 1203; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209, universal person objects database 2212; FIG. 30 computer system, fixed disk 3007.

Title: Means Plus Function Language – Claim 22

Function	Corresponding Structure
means for receiving a query from a provider	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, clinician interface 213; FIG. 3, PIDS package 302, CILS package 303; FIG. 8, server 805, servlet 806; FIG. 9, servlet 901; FIG. 11, servlet 1108; FIG. 12, application server 1201; FIG. 22, PIDS 2207; FIG. 30 computer system, I/O 3006.
means for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, PIDS 202, database 208; FIG. 3, PIDS package 302, correlation system package 306 FIG. 8, RMI/IOP service 807; FIG. 12, application server 1201; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103, certified applications 104; FIG. 2, clinical information locator service 203; FIG. 8, RMI/IOP service 807; FIG. 11, servlet 1108; FIG. 12, application server 1201, health information location services 1211; FIG. 22, correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103; FIG. 2, security services 211, clinical information locator service 203, resource access description service (RADS) 204; FIG. 3, RADS package 305, security package 308; FIG. 12, application server 1201, RADS 1210; FIG. 30 computer system.
means for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations	FIG. 1, servers 102, 103, certified applications 104; FIG. 2, clinician interface 213; FIG. 8, servlet 806; FIG. 9, servlet 901; FIG. 11, servlet 1108; FIG. 12, application server 1201; FIG. 22, PIDS 2207 and correlation system 2209; FIG. 30 computer system, I/O 3006.

ISSUE

Whether claims 1-41 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by McGauley (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,998).

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

- 1) Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 21 and 27-32 stand or fall together.
- 2) Claims 7-14, 17-20, 22 and 33-36 stand or fall together.
- 3) Claims 23-26 stand or fall together.
- 4) Claims 37-40 stand or fall together.
- 5) Claim 41.

ARGUMENT

Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over McGauley (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,998). The rejection against claims 7-14, 17-20, 22-26 and 33-41 is improper and in plain error because the rejection does not even allege several elements in these claims are found in McGauley. The rejection against claims 1-6, 15, 16, 21 and 27-32 is improper as well. Although the non-final office action does recite back the elements of claims 1-6, 15, 16, 21 and 27-32, each and every element has not been identified in the McGauley reference.

Claim Rejections Made with Plain Error

Applicants submit that neither the non-final nor the final office action make a prima facie 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection against claims 7-14, 17-20, 22-26 and 33-41 because there are several limitations in each of these claims that are not even mentioned in the non-final and final office actions. Instead, the non-final and final actions appear to erroneously assume that independent claims 7, 11, 17, 22, 23, 33, 37 and 41 have the same limitations as claim 1.

Independent claims 7, 11, 17, 22 and 33

Applicants submit that each of claims 7, 11, 17, 22 and 33 includes at least four limitations not even mentioned in either the non-final or the final office actions. Specifically, neither of the actions makes any mention of the following four limitations found in each of claims 7, 11, 17, 22 and 33:

- 1) a query from a provider;
- 2) correlating the query against at least a primary database;
- 3) filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and
- 4) presenting the locator data to the provider.

With respect to claim 11, the actions fail to mention at least three additional limitations; thus the actions fail to mention seven limitations of claim 11:

- 1) selecting, at the provider application, the one or more health care records from a the at least one remote data system;
- 2) accessing the one or more health care records from the at least one remote data system by the provider application; and
- 3) presenting the one or more health care records so as to provide a virtually centralized view of the one or more health care records.

Independent Claim 23

Applicants submit that claim 23 includes at least six limitations not even mentioned in either the non-final or the final office actions:

- 1) a provider application operable to issue queries;
- 2) at least a first server connected to the provider application,
- 3) containing a primary correlation system connected to
- 4) a primary database of universal person objects,
- 5) the server operable to receive the queries, and
- 6) correlate the queries against the database.

Independent Claim 37

Applicants submit that claim 37 includes at least four limitations not even mentioned in either the non-final or the final office actions:

- 1) an information locator service for storing and accessing information locator data;
- 2) a correlation system connected to the database
- 3) for correlating demographic information against the database
- 4) to locate a particular universal person object.

Independent Claim 41

Applicants submit that claim 41 includes at least six limitations not even mentioned in either the non-final or the final office actions:

- 1) a person class including references to person specific data,
- 2) the person class further being operable to track historical instances of the person specific data;
- 3) a person identifier class associated the person class,
- 4) the person identifier class including references to one or more person identifiers; and
- 5) a domain identifier class associated with the person class
- 6) for identifying at least one of the disparate organizations from which the one or more person identifiers have been received.

Accordingly, the rejection against claims 7, 11, 17, 22, 23, 33, 37 and 41 are legally insufficient and the corresponding dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 1, 15, 21 and 27

Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection against claims 1-6, 15, 16, 21 and 27-32 is improper because neither the first nor the final office action identify with any specificity any constructs in the McGauley reference that allegedly correspond to the recited “locator data” or “universal person object.” As a consequence, the rejection is improper under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 37 CFR 1.104 (c)(2), which requires:

When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, *the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable*. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified. (emphasis added).

More specifically, in rejecting claims 1, 7, 11, 15, 17, 21-23, 27, 33, 37 and 41 the non-final office action alleges that Col. 2, lines 45-58 discloses receiving organizational information, patient demographic data and information locator data, but the action does not identify with any specificity what in Col. 2, lines 45-58 corresponds to organizational information, what corresponds to patient demographic data and what corresponds to information locator data. As a consequence Applicants are left guessing as to what the Examiner is referring to.

The non-final office action also alleges that figures 3 and 5 disclose the claimed universal person object, but the action fails to identify with any particularity what in these figures corresponds to the universal person object. In addition, the non-final office action indicates, in error, that Col. 30-42 of McGauley discloses a universal person object. Although Applicants' representative clarified (via telephone conference with the Examiner on November 23, 2004) that the action should have identified Col. 12, lines 33-54, Applicants are again left guessing as to what construct in this portion of McGauley the Examiner is referring to due to the Examiner's lack of specificity.

The non-final office action also alleges that Col. 25, “ (sic) discloses storing the information locator data with the universal person object. Applicants clarified (via telephone conference with the Examiner on November 23, 2004) that the Examiner actually intended to reference Col. 25, lines 1-15 (i.e., claim 40) as the portion of McGauley, which allegedly teaches storing the information locator data with the universal person object. Again, the Examiner failed to identify with any specificity where among the multitude of limitations in McGauley's claim 40 there is a disclosure of storing the information locator data with the universal person object.

Turning to the final office action, the Examiner contends Col. 2, lines 31-36, which is reproduced below for convenience, discloses locator data:

The present invention takes a different approach. It does not depend on the presence of a central database, or a single masterfile. It is a new type of distributed database network system in which medical data items are automatically propagated from their sites of origin to several different memory storage sites, independently and selectively. The memory sites exist in: (1) portable data carriers (PDC), (2) medical point-of-service (POS) stations and (3) administrative services systems.

McGauley, Col. 2, lines 31-36.

Again, the Examiner does not identify with any specificity what construct in this portion of McGauley corresponds to the recited locator data, and as a consequence the rejection against claims 1-6, 15, 16, 21 and 27-32 is improper under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 37 CFR 1.104 (c)(2).

Notwithstanding the deficient rejection, Applicants have reviewed McGauley and Applicants are unable to find each and every limitation in the McGauley reference. For example, Applicants submit McGauley neither teaches nor suggests the recited “locator data.” For simplicity claim 1 is directly addressed, but the same arguments apply to independent claims 15, 21 and 27.

Claim 1 is reproduced below for convenience.

1. A method of building a database utilizing a computer in an exchange system to enable identification of a location of distributed health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, for a particular patient, metadata including organization information, patient demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;

updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and

storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

It is important to recognize that the locator data includes data that “identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations.” As recited in claim 1, when the information locator data is associated with the universal person object, the health care records, which are stored at the plurality of disparate organizations, can be identified and accessed.

In rejecting claim 1, the non-final action alleges that Col. 2, lines 45-58 of McGauley teaches receiving information locator data. Applicants disagree. At most, this portion of McGauley teaches propagating, via a portable data carrier, copies of health care records—there is simply no suggestion for receiving information locator data, which indicates where, at disparate organizations, health care records can be accessed.

Additionally, the final office action (at page 2) contends that because McGauley’s medical data “has been located from different sites,” that McGauley teaches receiving information locator data. Again Applicants disagree. Applicants submit that even if McGauley’s medical data originates from different sites, it certainly does not mean that McGauley teaches receiving information locator data that identifies where health care records are stored at disparate organizations.

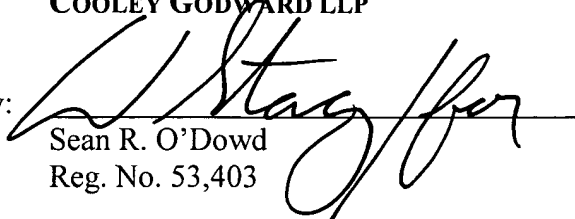
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection against claims 1, 15, 21 and 27 and the corresponding dependent claims should be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

All of the pending claims are patentable for the reasons set forth herein, and Appellant respectfully requests such finding.

Three copies of this Appeal Brief are provided along with payment of the required fee.

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APPENDIX

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A method of building a database utilizing a computer in an exchange system to enable identification of a location of distributed health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, for a particular patient, metadata including organization information, patient demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;

updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and

storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data; and

creating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

5. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

6. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

7. A computer implemented method of locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among a plurality of disparate organizations, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a query from a provider;

correlating the query against at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location, among the plurality of disparate organizations, of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and

presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

presenting correlation results to the provider; and

receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
presenting correlation results to the provider; and
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

11. In a network including distributed health care information, a computer implemented method of viewing a record for a particular person from within the health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

 sending a query from a provider application to a primary domain server;
 correlating the query by accessing at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the particular person;
 retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies at least one remote data system from among a plurality of disparate data systems, wherein the at least one remote data system stores one or more health care records for the particular person;
 filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;
 presenting the locator data to the provider application;
 selecting, at the provider application, the one or more health care records from a the at least one remote data system;
 accessing the one or more health care records from the at least one remote data system by the provider application; and
 presenting the one or more health care records so as to provide a virtually centralized view of the one or more health care records.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:
determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and
if the pointer exists, correlating the query by accessing the remote database in the remote domain.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

presenting correlation results to the provider application; and
 setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and
 parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:
 presenting correlation results to the provider application; and
 setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and
 parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

15. A computer program product for enabling a server to build a database in an exchange
 system to enable identification of a location of distributed information, the computer program
 product including a computer program comprising:

- instructions for creating universal person objects;
- instructions for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic
 data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the
 information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that
 identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the
 plurality of disparate organizations;
- instructions for searching the database for universal person objects;
- instructions for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data
 in accordance with the metadata; and
- instructions for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is
 associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to
 enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate
 organizations.

16. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein the computer program further
 comprises instructions for forwarding the universal person objects to a parent server.

17. A computer program product for enabling the locating of particular health care
 information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among

a plurality of disparate organizations, the computer program product including a computer program comprising:

- instructions for receiving a query from a provider;
- instructions for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;
- instructions for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;
- instructions for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and
- instructions for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the computer program further comprises:

- instructions for determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and
- instructions for correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

19. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the computer program further comprises:

- instructions for presenting correlation results to the provider; and
- instructions for receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

20. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the computer program further comprises:

- instructions for presenting correlation results to the provider; and
- instructions for receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

21. Apparatus for building a database to enable the location of distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating universal person objects;

means for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

means for searching the database for universal person objects;

means for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data in accordance with the metadata; and

means for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

22. Apparatus for locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a query from a provider;

means for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

means for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

means for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;

and

means for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

23. A network for providing a virtually centralized view of health care information distributed among a plurality of disparate organizations comprising:

a provider application operable to issue queries; and

at least a first server connected to the provider application, and containing a primary correlation system connected to a primary database of universal person objects, the server operable to receive the queries, correlate the queries against the database, and retrieve locator data, the locator data indicating the location of one or more specific health care records from within the plurality of disparate organizations.

24. The network of claim 23 further comprising a second server connected to the first server, and including a remote correlation system connected to a remote database of universal person objects.

25. The network of claim 23 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

26. The network of claim 24 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

27. A programmed computer system operable to build a database in an exchange system to enable a virtually centralized view of distributed health care information by performing the steps of:

receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;
updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and
storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with
the universal person object.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprise the steps
of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the
demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding
to the demographic data; and
creating the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of
searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the
demographic data.

30. The system of claim 27 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the
universal person object to a parent server.

31. The system of claim 28 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the
universal person object to a parent server.

32. The system of claim 29 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the
universal person object to a parent server.

33. A programmed computer system which is operable to locate particular health care
information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among
distributed and disparate providers by performing the steps of:

receiving a query from a provider;
correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to
locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person from among the plurality of disparate providers;
filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and
presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations .

34. The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:
determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and
if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

35. The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:
presenting correlation results to the provider; and
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

36. The system of claim 34 further enabled to perform the steps of:
presenting correlation results to the provider; and
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

37. Apparatus for enabling a virtually centralized view of records distributed among disparate organizations, the apparatus comprising:
an information locator service for storing and accessing information locator data, the information locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the records distributed among the disparate organizations;
a database of universal person objects, each universal person object corresponding to a person and associated with information locator data in the information locator service; and

a correlation system connected to the database for correlating demographic information against the database to locate a particular universal person object.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a person identification service connected to the correlation system for providing a standard interface for receiving the demographic information.

39. The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

40. The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

41. A memory system encoded with a data structure for defining a universal person object for use in correlating queries for records stored among a plurality of disparate organizations, the data structure comprising:

- a person class including references to person specific data, the person class further being operable to track historical instances of the person specific data;

- a person identifier class associated the person class, the person identifier class including references to one or more person identifiers; and

- a domain identifier class associated with the person class for identifying at least one of the disparate organizations from which the one or more person identifiers have been received.

Evidence Appendix

None

Related Proceedings Appendix

None